

# AN ATTACK ON FORTS AT SANTIAGO DE CUBA

The American Fire Was Principally Against the Fortifications and Much Damage Was Inflicted on Them---Also an Engagement at Sea Reported.

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**Port Au Prince, Hayti, May 31.**—About 2 o'clock this afternoon an American squadron composed of fourteen warships, of which the cruiser New York displayed the flag of Rear Admiral Sampson, and a number of torpedo boats began a bombardment with heavy guns of the forts and the harbor of Santiago de Cuba. The American fire was directed principally against the forts and harbor. The forts of Moro, Lazocopa and Punta Gorda suffered severely. The cannonading was very persistent and can not have failed to be destructive. It lasted until 3:45 p. m. The town, which is situated near the inner end of the harbor, escaped damage.

At 3:45 p. m. the cannonade diminished. About 3 o'clock cannon discharges were heard at a distance (presumably at sea) continuing for some time, when the firing ceased completely. Spanish authorities maintain silence as to the number of victims, who were apparently numerous.

## Fourteen Americans Said to Have Been Engaged.

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**Cape Haytien, May 31, 11:15 p. m.**—According to advices from a Spanish source, fourteen American warships and two torpedo boats were engaged in the combat at Sanfiago. A very full fire was directed against the batteries of Moro Castle until 3:45 p. m. when the discharges of cannon began to be heard at sea off the port. These discharges continued until 4 o'clock and then entirely ceased. From the Spanish account it is impossible to judge as to the exact merits of the encounter.

### HARBOR IS STRONGER

THAN IT WAS AT FIRST SUPPOSED TO BE.

But Schley Wished to Emulate the Example Set by Dewey at Manila. His Men Willing.

Special Cable to The Post and New York Herald. Copyright, 1898, by James Gordon Bennett.

Santiago de Cuba, Monday, via Port Antonio, Jamaica, May 31.—When seen today Commodore Schley declined to announce either his opinions or the plans for his ships. He has made an examination of the batteries and the channel, which has revealed much stronger guns and mines than was supposed. He discovered four rows of mines laid across the narrow entrance. There has been the greatest vigilance at night of the fleet to prevent the success of such attacks.

This nerve-racking duty will soon affect the officers and men, who hope for a chance of ending all in one decisive swoop on the Spanish fleets and forts.

While Commodore Schley appreciates the difficulties and dangers of entering the harbor to fight Cervera, who is protected by batteries and mines, it is understood he nevertheless is anxious to repeat Admiral Dewey's feat at Manila, preferring even risky action to tedious delays.

**SANTIAGO CABLE CUT.**  
Key West, Fla., May 31.—4 p. m.—News received here today from off Santiago de Cuba says the auxiliary cruiser St. Paul has cut the cable off that port.

OFFICIALS HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT.

Schley Did Not Mention It in His Dispatch.  
(Special Dispatch to The Post and New York Herald. Copyright, 1898, by James Gordon Bennett.)

Washington, May 31.—Washington is without any official confirmation of the report that Spanish torpedo boat destroyers attempted to attack the battleship Texas and the armored cruiser Brooklyn Sunday night.

Commodore Schley's latest dispatch, received this afternoon, must have been sent before the engagement took place, as in its message he failed to mention the occurrence.

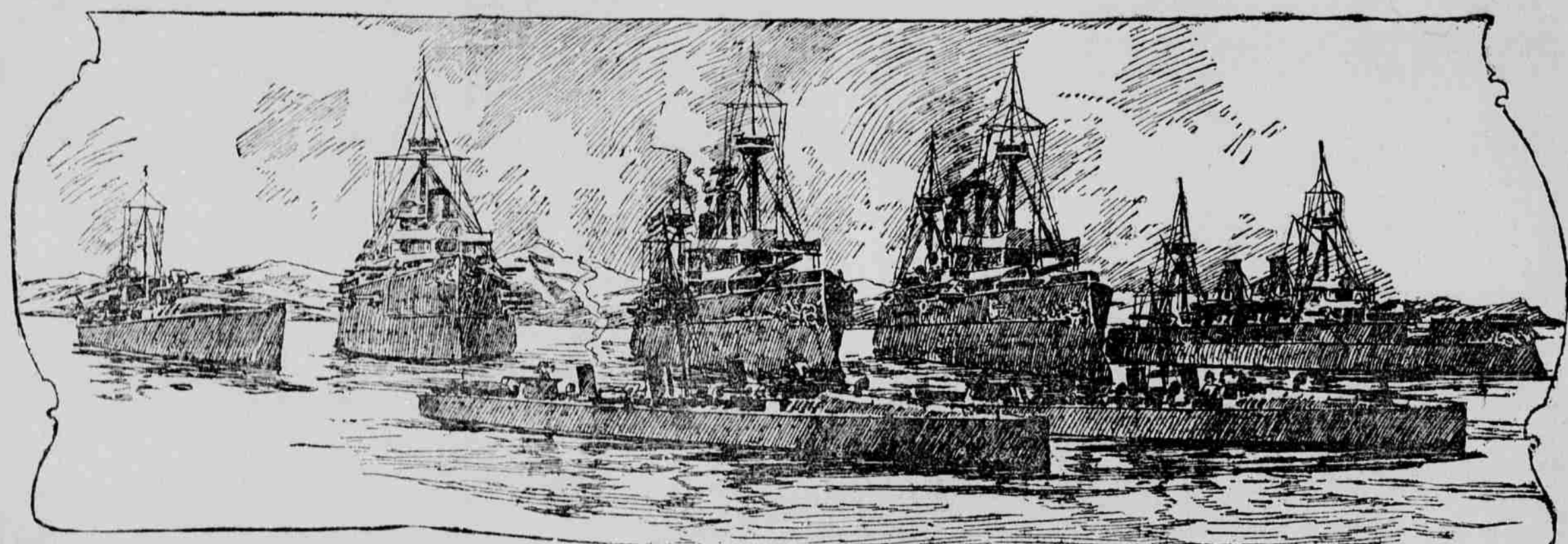
Naval experts with whom I talked said that Admiral Cervera's move was one dictated by good judgment and excellent strategy. He evidently desired to make a diversion with the torpedo boats with a view to making a dash through the cordon of American ships with his four armored cruisers, and they are glad that Commodore Schley showed his alertness.

The fact that the torpedo boat destroyers were forced to retire before discharging their torpedoes is regarded as an excellent indication that some of the Texas' and Brooklyn's shells found their marks.

Washington, May 31.—Naval officials absolutely discredit the news from Cape Haytien to the effect that Commodore Schley forced an entrance to Santiago bay and engaged the Spanish fleet. While no official advices have been received from Commodore Schley since the battle is reported to have occurred, the naval officials declare with positiveness that it is not only improbable but almost impossible that an attempt should be made by the American commander to force an entrance to the bay.

The latest official advices received from Commander Schley were contained in a cablegram which came late this afternoon, and in that Commander Schley gives no indication of an intention to try to enter the harbor of Santiago.

The naval officials declare that Schley would not endeavor to force his way into the harbor in view of the great difficulties of navigation. At one point the entrance is very narrow, and the naval officials say it might become necessary at some stage of the tide for a ship to come close to the shore. More batteries line both sides of the channel and a vessel running in would be a target that not even a Spanish gunner could fail to hit.



TORPEDO BOAT FLUTON. CRISTOBAL COLON. ALMIRANTE OQUENDO. TERROR. VISAYAS. FUROR. MARIA TERRA. THE SPANISH FLEET IN SANTIAGO HARBOR, A PORTION OF WHICH SCHLEY IS SAID TO HAVE ENGAGED.

### ARE GOING NORTH FAST

FOUR AMERICAN SHIPS SAID TO HAVE BEEN SIGHTED.

Steaming Northward at a Great Rate Past the Eastern End of Cuba.

(Copyrighted, 1898, by Associated Press.)

Cape Haytien, May 31.—The Haytien dispatch gunboat Capois la Mort, which arrived here from Port au Prince at 8 o'clock this morning, having the minister of public works on board, seems to have sighted five American warships while passing the Mole St. Nicholas.

The correspondent here of the Associated Press has just interviewed the officers of the Capois la Mort and learns that at about 2 o'clock yesterday, when the gunboat was about abreast of the Mole, columns of black smoke were espied in the horizon north from her bridge. The ships were about thirty-one miles distant, so their hulls could not be fairly made out, but all appearances indicated that the vessels were of great tonnage. The fleet seemed to be making northward with all speed, past the eastern end of Cuba and while the officers of the Capois la Mort were observing the vessels they were gradually lost to view behind the protruding outlines of Cape Mayai. It is hardly to be doubted that the ships sighted were American war vessels.

The correspondent of the Associated Press, who was at the signal station about the same time, also heard sounds resembling a cannonade. The wind was in the right direction to carry the detonations to him. It seems certain that the fleet the Haytien gunboat saw passing Cape Mayai going northward found its opportunity to turn backwards across the front of an opposing force.

**THAT CADIZ SQUADRON.**  
It Is Reported of as Being a Quite Formidable Fleet.

London, June 1.—The Madrid correspondent of the Standard telegraphing Sunday by way of Bayonne, says: "The reserve squadron, now undergoing speed trials and gun trials outside Cadiz, is composed of the battleship Pelayo, with 521 men; the armored cruiser Alfonso XIII, with 361 men; the auxiliary cruisers Patriota and Rapido, each with 175 men, and four torpedo boat destroyers, each with 120 men. When the vessels are ready to start, Admiral Bimara proposes to take with them several transatlantic steamers. They are armed with Krupp guns and quick fire guns, carrying 250 men each. They will serve at the same time as carriers of coal and stores for the squadron, which will carry a large force of marines."

### SCHLEY IS IN DANGER AT SEA.

Time in Which Cyclones Prevail in West Indies Is at Hand.

Special Dispatch to The Post and New York Herald. Copyrighted, 1898, by James Gordon Bennett.

Washington, May 31.—Appreciating that June marks the commencement of the West Indies cyclone period and that bad weather may be expected during the remaining summer months, the naval authorities are doing all in their power to hasten the dispatch of the army of 15,000 men to Commodore Schley's relief in order that Cervera may be destroyed before he has a chance to escape. Four batteries of heavy artillery, equipped with siege guns, will accompany the army and the information here tonight is that they are now safely aboard troops ships. It is expected at the war department that advices will be received in a few hours announcing the departure of the force under an efficient convoy.

### CERVERA'S CRUISERS MIGHT MAKE A DASH

THEY WERE NOT IN A CONDITION TO FIGHT

When They Stopped at the Island of Curacao, According to Americans Who Saw Them.

Washington, May 31.—W. H. Davis, Carl Davis and Cleve Davis, three young men of this city, have just returned home after a three years' visit to Venezuela, and brought interesting information concerning Cervera's fleet. They landed at New York Saturday from the Dutch mail steamer Prinz Frederik Hendrik. On the way up from South America, the steamer put into Curacao, May 14, the same day the Spanish Cape Verde fleet arrived at the Dutch port. The young men were in close proximity to the steamer of the fleet for nearly thirty-six hours and during that time kept a constant watch on every movement of the Spaniards. The fleet, they say, was short coal and provisioned, while the bottom of each ship was foul with seaweed.

Admiral Cervera's squadron was in no fighting trim. On board the Dutch steamer with the young Washingtonians was Captain H. S. Osborn of Brooklyn, and they contain entirely his story of the poor condition of the Spanish fleet, concerning which they made it their business to get information.

**The Harvard Bound East.**  
London, June 1.—A dispatch to the Standard from Kingston says: The United States auxiliary cruiser Harvard sailed ostensibly for Key West, but when several miles out she turned and headed for the east of the island.

### REPORT FROM HAVANA

BOTH SPANISH FLEET AND FORTS WERE ENGAGED.

The Fight Lasted the Greater Part of the Afternoon—The Americans Had the Advantage.

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Cape Haytien, May 31.—5:10 p. m.—Advices just received from Havana say that since 2 o'clock this afternoon the fleet at Santiago has been cannonading the batteries of Moro castle, La Zecapita and Punta Gorda. At the same time, it is added, the American ships have been engaged with the Spanish warships. The firing was extremely heavy. At 3:45 p. m. the cannonading became less heavy against the fortifications, but was more accentuated in the locality where the fleets were engaged.

Moro castle is at the entrance of the harbor of Santiago de Cuba, a short distance inside the harbor entrance and Punta Gorda is situated on the point well inside the harbor of Santiago, showing that the American fleet has entered the harbor, according to the Havana advices via Cape Haytien, and has engaged the Spanish fleet in those waters.

6:40 p. m.—At this hour the Santiago cable is still working. Private messages intimate that there has been a severe fight between the American fleet and the outer fortifications and the Spanish fleet. The fight lasted the greater part of the afternoon. The advantage appears to have been with the Americans. According to the last advices the combat is still in progress.

**MYTHICAL FLEET.**

American Naval Men Not Concerned About Spain's Fleet.

Washington, May 31.—The frequent reports from Spain through other countries to the effect that a formidable fleet is being prepared at Cadiz for the West Indies in aid of Cervera cause little apprehension here. Naval officers through private means of communication have pretty well satisfied themselves that the Cadiz fleet is a mythical fleet. In other words its offensive power is altogether illusory. More than half the vessels whose names occur frequently as formidable are craft of antiquated type and in a sad state of disorder. There are some vessels, although very few, at Cadiz of modern type, but they are not numerous nor powerful enough to give our navy serious concern. Of course it is not to be understood from this that our naval officers are neglecting to take precautions against surprises at Santiago. They have thrown aside well over to the westward of Cuba so that they may receive quick notice of the arrival of the Spanish second fleet.

### SANTIAGO VALUABLE

AS A BASE FOR AIDING THE RECONCENTRATED.

That Is the Reason the Administration Is So Anxious to Have the Place Now.

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Washington, May 31.—The Spanish squadron might be kept within Santiago harbor until the end of the war without sensibly endangering an American soldier. But, lying in the very midst of the insurgent section of the island, the town would afford a splendid base for the distribution of supplies to the famished insurgents and reconcentrados who still drag out a miserable existence in the interior. Already the president has begun to prepare to help these people and the commissary general of the army has prepared an estimate of \$5,000,000 for the purchase of sufficient supplies to feed 150,000 reconcentrados for six months. For the time being it is felt that the real field of action is removed from Washington and is centered with the troops now advancing under orders from here, and with our ships. The time of preparation has gone by and it remains only for the preparations to be carried into actual effect.

**PORTUGAL HELPING SPAIN.**

Carlisle Organ Advocate the Granting of Letters of Marque.

New York, May 31.—A dispatch to the World from Lisbon says: The Spaniards are sending troops from all the provinces to Cadiz and Algeciras. The intention is said to be to dispatch these soldiers to the Philippines as soon as the squadron is ready to convey them. But it appears that no squadron can be dispatched for a week or more, as all the warships are short of ammunition and some of them have not even mounted guns. In the northern provinces of Spain the Carlisle organs are telling the people that insurrection as Admiral Dewey attacked Manila with petroleum bombs and as the Americans bombard Spanish towns without warning the inhabitants. It is time for Spain to make use of her right to grant letters of marque.

Portuguese people are very much in favor of Spain in the present war. They have gone out of their way to assist her. At the instance of the Spanish consul here they sent back Spanish deserters who had entered Portuguese territory, and now are sending troops to the frontier to prevent the entrance of any more. They exercise great caution in transmitting telegrams and letters for England and the continent generally, assuming that there must be something important in every telegram sent to London.

**CASTORIA.**

Bears the Signature of The Kind You Have Always Bought

Signature of J. H. Watson

### A SIGNIFICANT ORDER

DEWEY SAID TO HAVE TOLD SHIP TO LEAVE MANILA HARBOR.

It Is Conjectured That the American Admiral Contemplates Some Action Right Away.

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London, May 31.—The British steamer Genista, loaded for Manila, has received cable dispatch dated May 24, saying that Admiral Dewey has ordered the vessel to leave the port, from which it is conjectured that the American commander contemplated some action.

**SECOND MANILA EXPEDITION.**

General Merritt Will Send All His Men to the Coast.

San Francisco, May 31.—The next expedition to the Philippines will probably include a large number of regulars. It is stated that General Merritt will carry out his ideas in this regard by selecting the regular forces of this department, the advance guard of the expedition. General is having the work of preparing the fleet of transports rushed. It is believed that the Zealandia will carry troops by next week and the China by the middle of next week. The work of preparation progressing rapidly and will be completed soon.

**SPANIARDS FORTIFYING.**

They Are Fixing Up the Defenses of Manila.

(Special Cable to The Post and New York Herald. Copyright, 1898, by James Gordon Bennett.)

Hong Kong, via Paris, May 31.—The Spaniards are busy fortifying the shore of Manila and recalling all the field troops from landwards. Engineers and military officers have little faith in the defenses against the heavy American guns, but the infantry still profess ability to hold the city. Strangely enough the defenses on the Cavite side are neglected. Private letters come reassuring, but anti-British feeling is keener among the lower classes.

A price has been set upon Aguinaldo's head, dead or alive.

**LEE AT JACKSONVILLE.**

He Is Given a Grand Ovation—Has Talk with Miles.

Jacksonville, Fla., May 31.—General Hugh Lee arrived here from Tampa this evening and was tendered an ovation. Hundreds crowded the station as his train rolled in, and cheer upon cheer greeted him as he stepped from the car. A committee of citizens met him and he was escorted to the Seminoles club, where he was entertained by his old friends. Later in the evening, accompanied by several members of his staff, General Lee paid his respects to General Miles and party during their stay in the city on their way to Tampa. The two generals talked an hour in General Miles' private car, nothing was given out.